IN THE CLAIMS:

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine,

2   comprising:

3   means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for

4   selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character;

5   means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and com-

6   pounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a

7   Chinese character, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the identification

8   and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a

9   selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the

10   first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic

11   components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's

12   membership within various subsets of Chinese characters;

13   means for process of said input information being based upon an order of strokes

14   used to draw said character for retrieving Chinese characters and compounds based upon

15   said stroke sequence, into internal codes for said Chinese characters, said process means

16   including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data;

17   and

18   means for display providing indication of correspondence between elements of

19   said means for input and said display; wherein further character selection information is

20   suggested in response to said input.

1   2.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for input is se-

2   lected from the group consisting of a keyboard and a touchscreen.

1   3.   (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said

2   touch screen which is incorporated with said display means, and said touch screen com-

3   prises a virtual keyboard comprising a representation of keys, each said key representa-

4   tion assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said touch screen

5   further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more

6   key and a wild card key.

1   4.   (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said

2   keyboard, said keyboard comprising keys, each said keys assigned to selection of a

3   stroke, a component or a character, and said keyboard further comprising a special func-

4   tion key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

1   5.   Cancelled

1   6.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage com-

2   prises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the

3   group consisting of (1) the frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's

4   language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all

5   Chinese words.

1   7.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said component is ortho-

2   graphic.

1   8.   (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said component is selected

2   from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a com-

3   ponent comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

1   9.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an order for

2   the display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possi-

3   ble Chinese characters and ~~the~~ an order for the display of the next drawn candidate is

4   based on the previous selection.

1   10.   (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the character frequencies are

2   altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

1   11.   (Previously Presented) A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   (a)   inputting a selection for an initial stroke of a Chinese character, wherein

4   the initial stroke is traditionally the first stroke drawn when drawing the Chinese charac-

5   ter by hand, and suggesting candidates based upon (1) the identification and order of

6   strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a selected clas-

7   sification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first character

8   of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic components of said

9   character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's membership within

10   various subsets of Chinese characters and displaying said candidates in response to said

11   initial stroke input, wherein said candidates include at least one character or at least one

12   component;

13   (b)   selecting a character or, if a desired character is not displayed, selecting a

14   further stroke, wherein the further stroke is traditionally the next stroke drawn when

15   drawing the Chinese character by hand, or a displayed component; and

16   (c)   selecting a word associated character or a non-word associated character, such

17   that Chinese text is constructed with said selections.

1   12.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein selection of said nonword

2   associated character automatically appends a word separator.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said step of inputting further comprising selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character.

14 – 16 Cancelled.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising providing a component that is orthographic.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the order for the display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previous selection.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the character frequencies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the data related to Chinese characters further includes indicators of said characters' membership within various subsets of Chinese characters.

1   22.   (New) A computer-readable storage medium having a program recorded thereon

2   for input of Chinese characters into a computer comprising:

3   A.   means for input of stroke, a component and a character;

4   B.   means connected to the input means for storage of data including:

5   1.   a character table that includes, for each of a plurality of characters,

6   data related to the strokes and the sequence of strokes used to write the character and data

7   related to components forming the character; and

8   2.   a component table that includes, for each of a plurality of compo-

9   nents, data related to the strokes and the sequence of strokes used to write the component;

10   and

11   C.   means for processing connected to the input means and the storage means,

12   including:

13   1.   means for expanding an input through the input means into strokes

14   with reference to the component table;

15   2.   means for identifying character candidates having a stroke se-

16   quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes from the character table;

17   3.   means for identifying component candidates having a stroke se-

18   quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes from the component table; and

19   4.   means for presenting the identified character candidates and com-

20   ponent candidates for selection on means for display connected to said process means and

21   the storage means.

1   23.   (New) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 22, wherein

2   character candidates and said component candidates are presented in a first area on said

3   display means, and said program further comprises:

4   means for presenting a stroke input through the input means in a second area on

5   said display means;

6   means for replacing the strokes being presented in the second area by a compo-

7   nent input through the input means; and

8   means for clearing the contents of the second area, and presenting a character in-

9   put through the input means in a third area on said display means.

1   24.   (New) A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine by an operator,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   A.   inputting a selection by choosing one of a displayed component, stroke

4   and wildcard;

5   B.   displaying a list of candidate characters and a list of candidate components

6   resulting from the selection; and

7   C.   selecting a displaced character or, if a desired character is not displayed,

8   selecting a desired component and/or inputting a further selection, said further selection

9   comprising one of a displayed component, stroke and wildcard, wherein said step of dis-

10   playing comprising the steps of:

11   1.   expanding the selection input in step A. into strokes;

12   2.   retrieving and displaying candidate characters having a stroke se-

13   quence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes; and

14   3.   retrieving and displaying candidate components having a stroke

15   sequence identical to the sequence of the expanded strokes.